

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 09937 101638Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----029218 101702Z /46

O 101510Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9993

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9937

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC NI
SUBJECT: TRANSMISSION OF PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

REF: (A) LAGOS 7788; (B) LAGOS 8043; (C) STATE 202025

1. EMBASSY NOTES THAT OBASANJO'S MOST RECENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK TWO WEEKS IN TRANSIT EVEN THOUGH MEA'S PROTOCOL CHIEF, AMBASSADOR BALEWA, INFORMED CHARGE JUNE 29 THAT THE TEXTS OF SUCH LETTER WOULD HENCEFORTH BE TELEGRAPHED TO THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL B). THE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THIS STATEMENT WHICH BALEWA PROMISED AT THAT TIME HAS NEVER BEEN RECEIVED. THE FACT THAT BALEWA HAS SINCE BEEN REPLACED BY AMBASSADOR TONWE MAY PERHAPS ACCOUNT FOR THIS.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THE BEST WAY OF INSURING THAT OBASANJO IS AWARE OF THESE TRANSIT DELAYS AND THAT THEY DO NOT AGAIN OCCUR WOULD BE TO DISCUSS THE DELAY AT THE OUTSET OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPLY, MENTIONING THE JUNE 23 (REFTEL A) AND JUNE 29 CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN AMBASSADOR BALEWA AND CHARGE. ON JUNE 23 CHARGE HAD ALSO DELIVERED A LETTER ON THE SUBJECT TO BALEWA THE MAIN POINT OF WHICH WAS THAT ANY LETTER FROM THE NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE "IS UNDOUBTEDLY OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE IT JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

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3. IF THE DELAY IN TRANSMISSION IS NOT DISCUSSED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE TO THE MOST RECENT LETTER, THEN THE EMBASSY WOULD PROPOSE TO RAISE THE SUBJECT AGAIN IN A FORMAL NOTE TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS09937
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780327-1176
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780879/aaaacnol.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31cf5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 7788, 78 LAGOS 8043, 78 STATE 202025
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1780219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSMISSION OF PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE
TAGS: PPDC, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31cf5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014